

# TAIESSA

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## BIOGRAPHY

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Taïessa (she/her) is a white settler and multi-discipline artist living in amiskwaciwâskahikan (Edmonton, AB). Her artistic practice explores the complexities and intersections of longing, nurturance, labour, and exchange. In learning from and collaborating with plants, Taïessa aims to problematize our relationships to extraction and collection, instead proposing an understanding of care that divests from current systems of power. Conceptually driven while rooted in process, she works primarily in printmaking, drawing, and soft sculpture.

Taïessa obtained a Fine Art diploma with distinction from Grant MacEwan University in 2018, and later completed her BFA at the University of Alberta. In 2020, Taïessa participated in the Mitchell Art Gallery's Artist Exchange pilot program. She has since expanded her engagement with local arts organizations through exhibiting with Latitude 53, The Works, and Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, with additional exhibitions upcoming at the Art Gallery of St. Albert and Esker Foundation. Her career as an emerging artist has been further supported through her work as Production Supervisor and Education Facilitator at The Works International Visual Arts Society, her position as the 2022/23 Harcourt House Artist in Residence, and funding provided through the Edmonton Arts Council Grants for Individuals and Collectives. Care and reflexivity motivate her artistic, writing, administrative, and pedagogical practices within and beyond these engagements.

## EDUCATION

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- 2021 University of Alberta, Bachelor of Fine Arts in Printmaking and Intermedia, with Distinction
- 2018 Grant MacEwan University, Fine Arts Diploma, with Distinction

## SOLO & DUO EXHIBITIONS

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- 2024 [upcoming] Esker Foundation Project Space, Calgary AB - *solo*  
[upcoming] Art Gallery of St. Albert Main Gallery, St. Albert AB - *duo*
- 2023 *variegata*, Harcourt House Artist Run Centre Main Gallery, Edmonton AB - *solo*  
*variegata*, Soft Gallery, Edmonton AB - *solo*  
*variegata*, The Works International Visual Arts Society x The Westin, Edmonton AB - *solo*

## GROUP EXHIBITIONS

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- 2023 *twenty eight months*, Soft Gallery, Edmonton AB  
*Art-O-Rama*, Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, Edmonton AB
- 2022 *Fully Realized*, Latitude 53, Edmonton AB  
*Art-O-Rama*, Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, Edmonton AB
- 2021 *Care*, Virtual Exhibition, hosted by Dear Artists  
*Where do we go from here?*, Remote Contact Virtual Symposium, hosted by The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
- 2020 *Breathing Room*, University of Alberta Fine Arts Building Gallery, Edmonton AB  
*Incidental Folds*, SNAP Gallery, Edmonton AB
- 2019 *As Is; On Sight*, Enterprise Square Gallery, Edmonton AB  
*Goodbye Goodbye*, Jackson Power, Edmonton AB

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- 2018 *Going Once*, Enterprise Square Gallery, Edmonton AB  
*Open Walls 4*, Bleeding Heart Art Space, Edmonton AB  
*Tiny Art*, Students' Association of MacEwan University Gray Gallery, Edmonton AB  
*How to Work a Room*, Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts, Edmonton AB  
*Fine Art Grad Show*, John and Maggie Mitchell Gallery, Edmonton AB  
*Change for Climate*, Latitude 53, Edmonton AB  
*Living with the Damage*, Grant MacEwan University, Edmonton AB

## MEDIA

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- 2023 *The Social Life of Wallflowers*, Freyja T. Catton, [https://thewordeater.substack.com/p/art-review-the-social-life-of-wallflowers?r=yppne&utm\\_campaign=post&utm\\_medium=web](https://thewordeater.substack.com/p/art-review-the-social-life-of-wallflowers?r=yppne&utm_campaign=post&utm_medium=web)

## PUBLICATIONS

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- 2023 Contributor to *Materials for continuing* by Alma Louise Visscher and Riaz Mehmood, Alcove Spring 2023 Publication  
Contributor to *Two Cents of Sense* by Amanda Chwelos, Alcove Spring 2023 Publication  
2021 *Signs of Life*, Art From Here, in partnership with Latitude 53, The Mitchell Art Gallery, Ociciwan Contemporary Art Collective & SNAP Gallery, <https://www.artfromhere.ca/writing-archive/taiessa>  
*Slow*, SNAPline 2021.1, <https://snapartists.com/snapline-article/when-all-the-good-feels-scarce/>  
Cover art, Art Mentorship Society of Alberta, Art + Wellness Magazine, Issue 1

## SELECTED AWARDS & RESIDENCIES

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- 2022-23 Harcourt House Artist in Residence  
Edmonton Arts Council Grant for Individuals and Collectives, Stream 1: Exploration & Experimentation  
2020 Eva Toban Scholarship  
2019 Natalka Horeczko Scholarship in Printmaking and Print-Design  
2018 Alize Katannya Margaret Kasian Memorial Award  
A Millar Western Transfer Leadership Scholarship

## TEACHING & MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCES

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- 2023 *rooted and reaching* soft-sculpture workshops, The Works x The Westin  
2022— Education Facilitator, The Works International Visual Arts Society  
2020 Mentee, John & Maggie Mitchell Art Gallery, Exchange Artist Mentor Program  
2018 RBC Emerging Artist Apprenticeship Program, Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts

## PROFESSIONAL & VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCES

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- 2023 Jury Member, Art Incubator 2024 Programming, Harcourt House Artist Run Centre  
2021— Production Supervisor, The Works International Visual Arts Society  
2021 2022 SNAP Calendar Collective  
2019-21 Production Coordinator, Summer Internship Program, The Works Art & Design Festival  
2019-20 Undergraduate Printmaking Assistantship, University of Alberta, Supervision by Sean Caulfield  
2019 Volunteer, Nina Haggerty Centre for the Arts  
2018 Production Assistant, Summer Internship Program, The Works Art & Design Festival  
2017-18 Volunteer Gallery Guide, John & Maggie Mitchell Gallery